

Parent Council Minutes

23rd January 2025

Claire Logue welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked those who attended:

- Clarie Logue (Chair)
- Jackie Lowe
- Charise O'Neill (Secretary & Treasurer)
- Daniella Kamrat- Pietraszewska
- Aynsleigh Ponsonby
- Edward Anderson

Representing School:

Miss Martin

- Miss Lynch
- Miss Johnston
- Miss McLaughlin

Apologies were received prior to the meeting for:

- Brenda McGinely
- Siddu Muragundi
- Carla Nixon
- Jenny Clark
- Emily Reid

Co Provided a Membership Update

There are currently 10 parents on the Parent Council with voting places.

We have one parent who has attended meetings and would like to join but has yet to return forms. He may not be able to commit due to work schedule.

Since the last meeting one member has been removed due to nonattendance/participation creating another space. We have another parent who has been to the last couple of meetings and was waiting for a place to open who has been contacted about taking this voting space.

We have not other parents wishing to join but will tweet before the next meeting asking for new members and to encourage people to come along to discuss important topics even if they cannot commit.

Head Teacher Update – Miss Martin

Staffing

Mrs Martin welcomed Miss Lynch back to school. She was missed by everyone at St Francis and will be a great asset back in school.

SLW - Miss Parveen has taken ill and will be absent for the coming months, the children have all been told.

Miss Martindale who used to work in the school office sadly passed away.

Miss Garret will begin maternity leave at the end of February

Music Broth

First Session was today with 2 P4 classes. The children will be asked for feedback as will the teachers and then a discussion and decision will be made.

Invoice will be sent to the Parent Council for payment.

Garden Upgrades

Miss Martin gave thanks to Sid and Edward from the Parent Council who gave up their time to work on the garden area in the playground. It was a lot of effort but well worth it.

Minibus

All P1s have trips to Kelvingrove art galleries.

It will also be used for P7 super sevens at Emirates

There are also many other external activities that we can now attend as we have the transport, which the school have been unable to sign up for due to lack of transport.

Used for the inclusion base and nursery for more organic trips in the coming months.

Ballot for Strike Action

Currently there is a ballot underway with the closing date of the 4th of February with a proposed day of the 20th of February or around that date.

Scottish government have committed to increasing numbers but GCC havent yet, which is the reason for strike action.

If it goes ahead there will be communication from the school

500 Words Competition – National Literacy Trust

Miss Garrett entered school into the 500 words competition which is the UK largest creative writing competition for 5–11-year-olds.

Although no one from school won an award the trust were so impressed with diversity and inclusion within the school when they worked with us on the competition that they wanted to invite representatives from school to the awards ceremony.

The trust/bbc are paying for 10 people (including 2 staff members) to go to London an awards event at Buckingham Place on the 25th of February 2025.

Treasurer Update – Charisse O’Neill

	BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	£ 3,113.50	30th June 2024
		INCOME	EXPENDITURE
05/07/2024	GCC Annual Payment	£ 400.00	
22/08/2024	Easy Fundraising	£ 26.94	
22/08/2024	P7 Ties		£ 464.00
30/08/2024	Face Painter - Linda Smith for Family Fun Night		£ 220.00
10/09/2024	Sundries - Bonnypack (paid to C Oneill)		£ 36.60
10/09/2024	Crisps for Goody Bags (paid to C Logue)		£ 15.00
11/09/2024	Booker - Soft Bar for Family Fun Night (Paid to Claire Logue)		£ 80.21
13/09/2024	Cash Deposit from Family Fun Night	£ 1,643.45	
16/09/2024	September Meeting LET		£ 51.52
17/09/2024	Goody Bag Contents to be paid to Daniella Kamrat		£135.18
26/09/2024	Food bank Donation		£ 108.79
14/10/2024	October Meeting LET		£ 51.52
25/10/2024	Tuck Shop Income - October	£ 134.48	
04/11/2024	Tuck Shop - Payment to Claire Logue		£ 93.95
29/11/2024	Tuck Shop Income - November	£ 128.06	
06/12/2024	Christmas Crafts for Wreath Making - Payment to C Oneill		£ 18.95
06/12/2024	Supplied for Christmas Wreath Making Night		£ 23.81
10/12/2024	Income from Wreath Making (Eventbrite)	£ 205.00	
11/12/2024	P1 Santa Visit to Dobbies - Payment to C Oneill		£ 1,172.31
16/12/2024	Disco Tuck - Payment to C Logue		£ 113.09
16/12/2024	DJ School Discos		£ 180.00
20/12/2024	Monies from School towards the P1 Santa Trip	£ 206.00	
20/12/2024	Disco Tuck shop income	£ 247.39	
31/12/2024	P7 Hous Day Supplies - Paid to C Oneill		£ 24.50
16/01/2025	My Childsart	£ 106.45	
09/01/2025	January Meeting Let		£ 51.52
		£ 6,211.27	£ 2,840.95
	BALANCE	£ 3,370.32	
	Less Co op fund	-£ 1,776.13	
	PC Monies	£ 1,594.19	
			240 circled for Music Broth

In December the PC organised a couple of events to support the school.

DK Organised the **Wishing Tree**. School provided a list of resources that they needed, and a label was placed on the school’s tree for parents and children to take and purchase. This brought in lots of resources, particularly playground equipment for the children to use. We wanted to say thank you to everyone who participated. It was so successful that we would run this again in 2025 – possibly for a longer period in December.

Jenny Clark organised a **Wreath Making Night** which raised £263 in total – some of which was used to fund the school - house day tuck shop. It was a great night with some amazing creations. Again, this is something that the PC would like to run again in the future.

CO organised the **my child’s art** campaign again this year, it wasn’t just as popular as last year raising £106.45 but it’s a great source of income and a lovely was for parents to have a keepsake.

School Uniform

CO raised the questions of school uniform and what is going to happen going forward as there continues to be an issue with sourcing brown trousers – currently no high street shops are stocking them and trousers at £14.00 plus a pair in the school shops.

Miss Johnston explained that she has also been looking at this issue as other parents have raised it since July last year. She has explored issues with availability of school uniform with Tesco and Marks and Spencer and it's a demand and supply chain issue. It doesn't seem that there are any plans to restock brown trousers.

School will consult on a move to grey trousers and skirts and pinafores – with white's shirts and yellow polos.

This will take place over a period of a couple of weeks and any agreed changes will take effect from the next term. Likely to be August 2025.

Nail Extension Policy

DK spoke to the agenda point on behalf of a parent who wanted information on the protocol as there seemed to be differences in what happens.

Children should not be wearing fake nails. If children come to school with nail extension, they are told that they need to be removed if they cannot be removed, they are asked to cut them.

School do contact the families where there is repetition of nails being worn to school.

School Meals

A question from a P1 parent about who she speaks to about providing vegan meals at school.

Miss Johnston explained that GCC classed veganism as a lifestyle choice and therefore don't currently provide that as an option.

There was a general discussion about the poor quality of the meals and the differences between what is shown on parent pay as the option/serving and what children actually get – for example they never get soup.

Miss Johnston said that there is always a member of staff supervising the children during the pick and mix part of getting school lunches to help with the soup. Miss McLaughlin explained that there are high numbers of children who aren't interested in eating as they are so eager to get out to play.

EA raised the question of how we can influence the quality of school meals. This would be part of a bigger campaign to influence Cordia and GCC as school have no input into this. Possibly there is something happening already with GCPG.

There was continued discussion on school meals, even the offering of vegetables.

CO explained that a number of years ago the PC raised this with the area manager of Cordia at the time, and they undertook to add vegetable to every plate whether they were asked for or not and their results were that it did not encourage more children to eat veggies – their waste amounts were exactly the same.

EA to take this forward as a PC issue exploring GCPG or a survey to all parents.

Parents who have any questions or concerns about the school lunches should contact Cordia – Caroline Weston – contact details on the GCC website.

Important Dates for the year

Parents have asked for the Key Dates through the year to help plan time off of work.

Calendar taking us to June which will be added to website and a group call was sent with the link.

Any changes will be notified as soon as possible.

Fundraising Spending

The PC asked for a breakdown of where the money from the Kimberly Rennocks Fundraiser was spent.

School explained that after all monies were collected and fees deducted the money was spent on:

- New basketball Net for 5/6/7 playground
- Skipping Ropes and Chalks
- New Balls and pumps.

Mainly Playground equipment for all ages at school.

Use of Twitter

Claire Logue asked what the reason for school no longer communication on twitter was, and what other methods were going to be used.

Miss Johnston explained that a change of terms and conditions mean that the images are the property of twitter and can be used by others freely and this would be against the GDPR agreements that we have in place as a school.

PC asked if Twitter could still be used for important information/updates and no photos used.

School is considering other ways of communicating information to parents and will clarify the approach.

Next Meeting Date:

13th March 2025